Sirhan Defense, State Rest; Summations Next

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LOS ANGELES, April 8 (AP)—The state reached the end of a long legal journey today, winding up presentation of testimony intended to convict Sirhan Bishara Sirhan of first-degree murder in the assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy. The defense also rested its case.

An opening summation by the prosecution was the next order of business for a jury of seven men and five women who listened to seven weeks of testimony concerning the June 5, 1968, assassination.

The trial record totaled more than 8000 pages and contained a minute examination of the actions and motives of Sirhan before he put a bullet into the brain of Kennedy, who was compaigning for the Democratic presidential nomination.

In an effort to compile an historical record for scholars and skeptics alike, some 200 exhibits were catalogued as evidence.

Sirhan heard the last words of testimony as he heard the first—settled in a chair at the far left of the attorneys' table, beside his lawyers, with those for the state on the other end. They faced Superior Court Judge Herbert V. Walker, flanked behind the bench by flags of California and the United States.

To the right sat the jury. At their backs were steel-covered windows of a courtroom sealed and guarded since the trial began Jan. 7 against any attempt on Sirhan's life.

Sirhan's life soon will be in the hands of the jury. It could send him to the gas chamber if it convicts him of premeditated murder. However, the state has said it will not press for the supreme penalty, but will suggest only that it is appropriate if the jury agrees.

The alternate in first-degree murder is life imprisonment.

The trial's 90th and final witness was a psychologist for the state, Leonard Olinger. He wound up his testimony under cross-examination attack by defense attorney Grant B. Cooper.

Olinger, an instructor at the University of Southern California, disagreed right down the line with a battery of fellow psychologists who testified that Sirhan was a paranoid schizophrenic—a split personality—whose baser nature raged trance-like and out of control when he shot Kennedy.

Olinger testified Sirhan was not that mentally ill, that he was a "psuedoneurotic schizophrenic," a label he did not explain. But the pwychologist said Sirhan was fully capable of premeditating the assassination.

Olinger admitted he never examined Sirhan, that he contacted the district attorney's office because of what he had read in newspapers and heard on the air, and offered to serve as a state witness after examining psychological test data of other witnesses.

"I thought I could help justice," he said.

Sirhan Pictured As a Commando

Los Angeles Times

BEIRUT—The Palestine Liberation Organization has begun distributing posters depicting Sirhan B. Sirhan—who is undergoing trial for the murder of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy—as a heroic Arab commando.

Several hundred thousand posters are reportedly being distributed in Arab countries, according to PLO, while others have been printed in English and French for use in Europe.

A sample poster was recently front-paged in a Beirut Arabic-language newspaper. It carries a large picture of Sirhan, and in front of him is a drawing of an Palestinian guerrilla with a rifle.

Above the picture are the words: "Sirhan Bishara Sirhan: A commando not an assassin."